

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method of decreasing the incidence of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus in at-risk populations, comprising the step of orally administering IFN- $\alpha$  to individuals of said at-risk population such that the type one interferon is ingested upon oral administration.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said interferon is selected from the group consisting of human recombinant interferon, rat interferon and murine interferon.

Claim 10 (previously amended): The method of claim 8, wherein said interferon is administered in a dosage of about 5 I.U./kg to about 50,000 I.U./kg.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said interferon is administered every other day.

Claims 12-15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method of decreasing the onset of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus in at-risk populations, comprising the step of orally administering IFN- $\alpha$  to individuals of said at-risk population such that the type one interferon is ingested upon oral administration.

Claim 17 (previously amended): The method of claim 16, wherein said IFN- $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of human recombinant interferon, rat interferon and murine interferon.

Claim 18 (previously amended): The method of claim 16, wherein said interferon is administered in a dosage of about 50 I.U./kg to about 25,000 I.U./kg.

Claim 19 (new): A method of reducing blood glucose levels in an animal comprising the step of orally administering IFN- $\alpha$  to said animal such that the IFN- $\alpha$  is ingested upon oral administration.

Claim 20 (new): The method of claim 19, wherein said interferon is selected from the group consisting of human recombinant interferon, rat interferon and murine interferon.

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 19, wherein said interferon is administered in a dosage of about 50 I.U./kg to about 25,000 I.U./kg.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 19, wherein said animal is a human.